



YMCA

We build strong kids,  
strong families, strong communities.

February 24, 2009

TO: Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
FROM: Frank Sumpter, Executive Director, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
RE: HB 6187 An act mandating employers provide paid sick leave to employees

YMCAs across Connecticut employ thousands of individuals in a multitude of capacities for varying hours and seasons of work. The Northern Middlesex County YMCA, based in Middletown employed 541 individuals during the course of 2008. We presently have 64 full time and 269 part time employees on our payroll. Our part time workers are lifeguards, exercise class instructors, after school recreation workers and the like. Most work less than 20 hours per week, many only for 3 or 4 hours.

We oppose bill 6187 because of the additional financial and administrative burdens this act would place on our YMCA. Based on our current employment levels we calculate the annual cost to be \$35,681.

While this cost may appear to be manageable, in recent years our YMCA has struggled with increasing costs with energy and health benefits growing at double digit levels. Our current year operating budget projects a loss of \$83,000 – with no provisions for wage increases. Additionally the current economic conditions has increased the demand for scholarship and sliding fee program awards while at the same time the sources of these charitable dollars, annual campaigns, United Ways and Endowment proceeds are dwindling. Add to this the uncertain continuation of state and local funds directed at assisting low and moderate income families to secure child care and the prospect of this additional expense becomes a grave concern.

Lastly, we believe HB6187 we create additional administrative burdens. In gathering the data, our payroll administrator said, "...frankly, I can't even image how we would keep track since so many of our part time staff have "several" positions in several departments at several hourly wages depending on the program they operate."